

Notes for Matthew 2:16-23

Hebrew & Greek pronunciation spelled phonetically

Luke 17:26 - *Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man*

Exodus 1:22 - *Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."*

Revelation 12:4 - *His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.*

Isaiah 5:20 - *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!*

"Bethlehem" means "house of bread," because of its grain farming. Jesus, known as "the bread of Life" coming from there is exactly what God would do!

Caesar Augustus reportedly said, "It is better to be Herod's pig than his son," which was a dark joke on Herod's observance of Jewish dietary laws, but total disregard for human life

Jeremiah 31:15 - *A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.*

Jeremiah 40:1 - *The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord after Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he took him bound in chains along with all the captives of Jerusalem and Judah who were being exiled to Babylon.*

Exodus 4:19 - *And the Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead."*

Isaiah 40:3-5 - *A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*

Herod's son, Archelaus (*ar-kheel'-ah-os*), rules Judea, and God warns him - again in a dream - and Joseph heads to Galilee. Archelaus was notorious for his brutality — in one Passover season, he slaughtered 3,000 Jews in the temple.

The Slaughter of 3,000 at Passover

The Jewish historian, Josephus, records that when Archelaus began his reign, Jewish crowds gathered at the temple during Passover to petition him for justice (they asked him to lighten taxes). Archelaus, instead of listening, feared a potential uprising and sent soldiers into the temple area and massacred about 3,000 Jews who had come for the feast. This act of brutality immediately made him hated by the people.

Nehemiah 9:19-21 - *you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. 20 You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. 21 Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.*

Psalms 121:7-8 - *The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. 8 The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*

God gives us Believers everything we need to prepare. He gives us His Word and listens to our prayers. Yet too often we do not do these things when there is no storm in our lives. We wait until the storm is upon us, but why?

Isaiah 53:3 - *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

Psalms 22:6 - *But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.*

Isaiah 11:1 - *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.*

The Hebrew word for shoot, sprout or branch is **Netzer**

Jesus is the new shoot - *netzer* - from that dead stump, bringing new life and kingship from David's cut-down line! The wordplay shows Jesus is the promised Branch, and Nazareth (*Netzer-et*) fulfills the one prophecy, without negating the others!

Acts 24:5 - *For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.*

A Nazarene is someone from Nazareth. A Nazirite is someone under a special vow of separation to God, described in Numbers 6:1-21.

Key Features of the Vow:

No wine, grapes, or strong drink.

No cutting of hair.

No contact with dead bodies.

Examples in Scripture: Samson (Judges 13:5) and Samuel (1 Sam. 1:11)

A GREAT WAY TO SERVE GOD, YOUR FELLOW MAN AND YOUR CHURCH IS TO INVITE SOMEBODY TO CHURCH HERE AT GCC AND THEY MIGHT JUST BECOME PART OF OUR FAMILY!

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